

Keynote



Rheeda Walker, PhD

Dr. Rheeda Walker is an award-winning Professor of psychology, a fellow in the American Psychological Association and a leading scholar who has published more than 60 scientific papers on African American mental health, suicide risk, and emotional resilience. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist who prepares doctoral students for independent careers. Dr. Walker's impact has expanded beyond academia and she has quickly become a fan favorite with the release of her first book, *The Unapologetic Guide to Black Mental Health*. Delving into the heart of the Black experience, Dr. Walker debunks myths about mental health, builds the case for psychological fortitude, and delivers practical advice for use in everyday life. Her charismatic vision and practical approach to life's challenges has led to numerous appearances on *Good Morning America*, *The Breakfast Club*, and NPR, among others. She is often quoted in major publications like the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Huffington Post*, *GQ Magazine*, and the *Houston Chronicle*.

Dr. Walker's eclectic mix of experiences positions her well to achieve her ultimate goal of bringing culturally-informed, psychological fortitude to both professional and lay audiences.

Suicide in Marginalized Communities: Understanding Mental Health in Context

Suicide is a complex and escalating (for some) but preventable public health challenge. Among marginalized communities, suicide risk is poorly understood and understudied. Nevertheless, some emerging patterns shed light on strategies to increase awareness and better manage suicide vulnerability. Dr. Walker will discuss patterns of suicide death, highlight relevant research from the Culture, Risk, and Resilience Lab, and propose important steps in addressing suicide as a serious but preventable public health concern.